

MARVEL
COMICS



JAN
#4

THE NEXT GENERATION
OF AVENGERS!

A
NEXT

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

IT'S TIME TO
ASSEMBLE AN
EXCITING NEW
LINE-UP--

--AND MODESTY
PREVENTS ME FROM
REVEALING EXACTLY
WHO HAS THE
STARRING ROLE!



INTRODUCING...
**AMERICAN
DREAM**
AND HER
ASTOUNDING
DREAM TEAM

FRENZ
BREEDING

Sharen & Liza

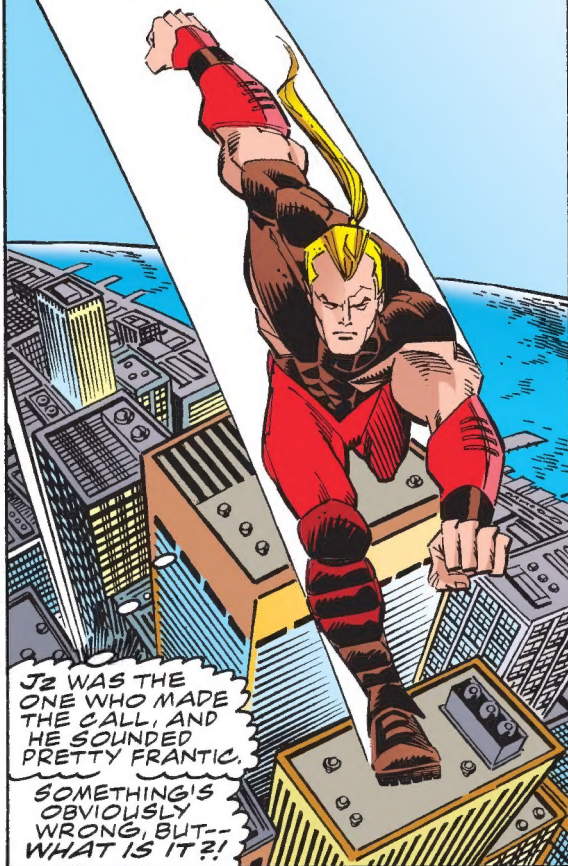
DEFALCO

FRENZ

BREEDING

HERE MOMENTS AGO, AN URGENT SUMMONS TO ASSEMBLE AT AVENGERS HEAD-QUARTERS WAS RECEIVED BY THE MIGHTY THUNDERSTRIKE AND THE STUNNING STINGER! AND SO, TRUE BELIEVER, WE BEGIN ANOTHER THRILL-PACKED EPIC IN THE DRAMATIC ANNALS OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF **EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES...**

PROPELLED THROUGH THE AIR BY A SERIES OF THUNDERBLASTS, THE MAN WHO IS SECRETLY KEVIN MASTERSON APPEARS TO BE FLYING AS HE RACES ACROSS TOWN.



MEANWHILE, APPROACHING FROM ANOTHER DIRECTION, CASSIE LANG HAS SIMILAR THOUGHTS.



who shall be worthy?

ARRIVING WITHIN INSTANTS OF EACH OTHER, THE TWO HEROES RACE THROUGH THE COMPOUND, AND THEN--

WHAT'S THE STORY, JUGGIE?

HAS ANYONE BEEN INJURED OR KILLED?!

NO! NO! IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT, BUT WE DO HAVE A MAJOR PROBLEM!

CHECK IT OUT--!

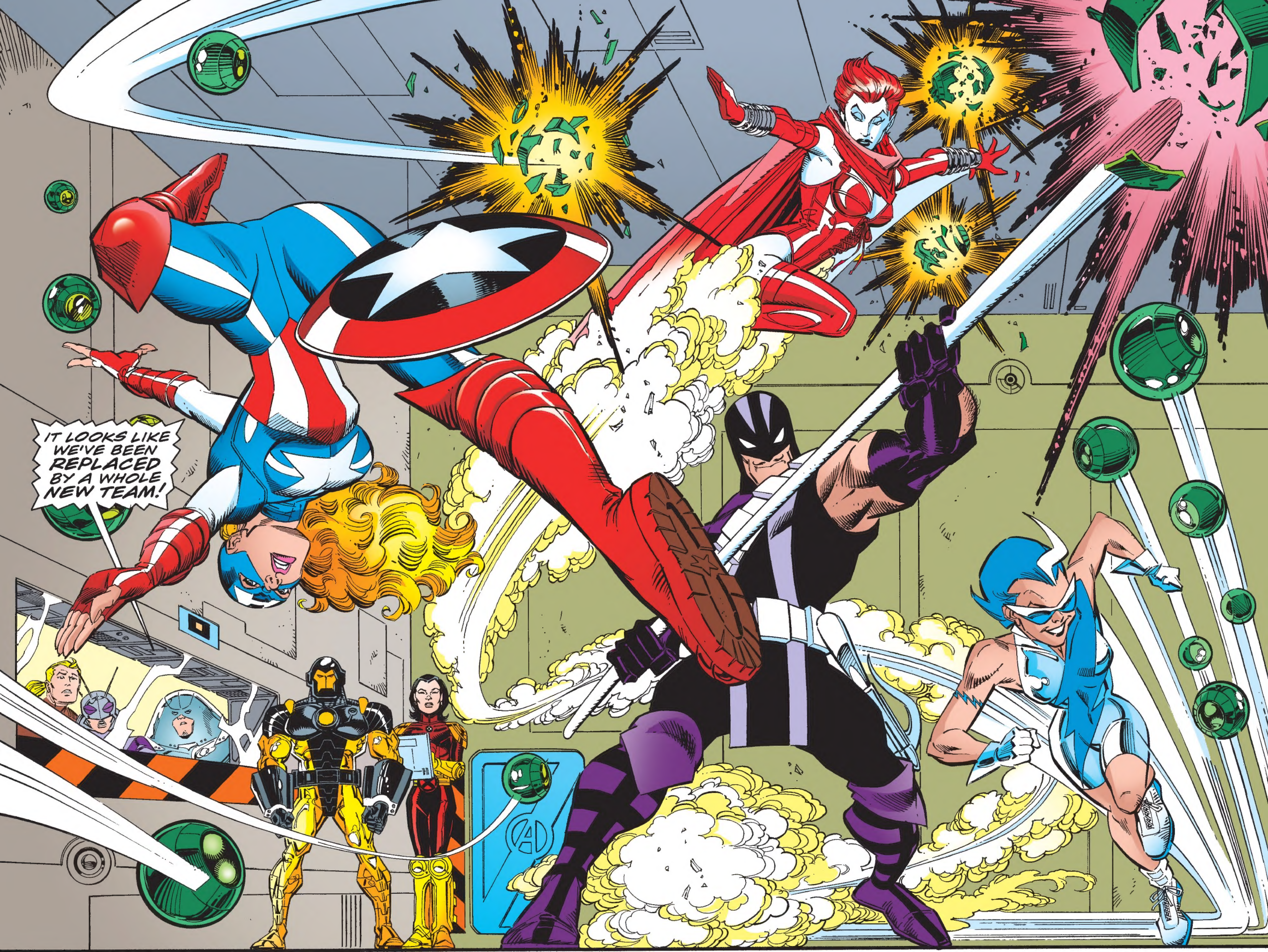
STAN LEE PRESENTS...

TOM DEFALCO & RON FRENZ
WORDS, PLOT & PENCILS

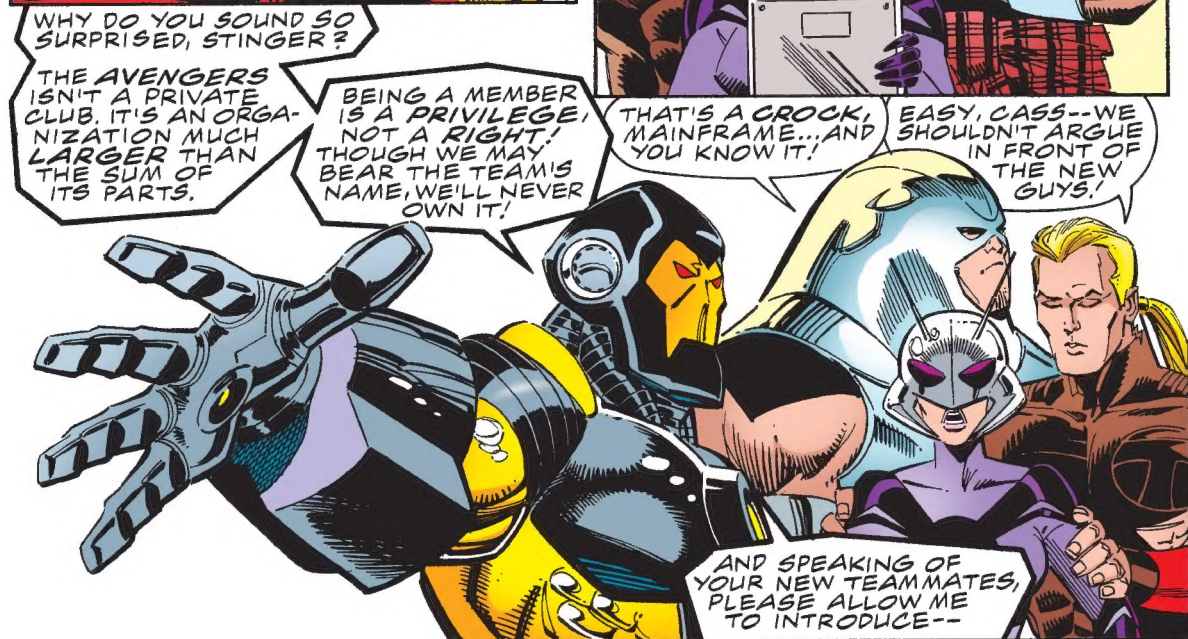
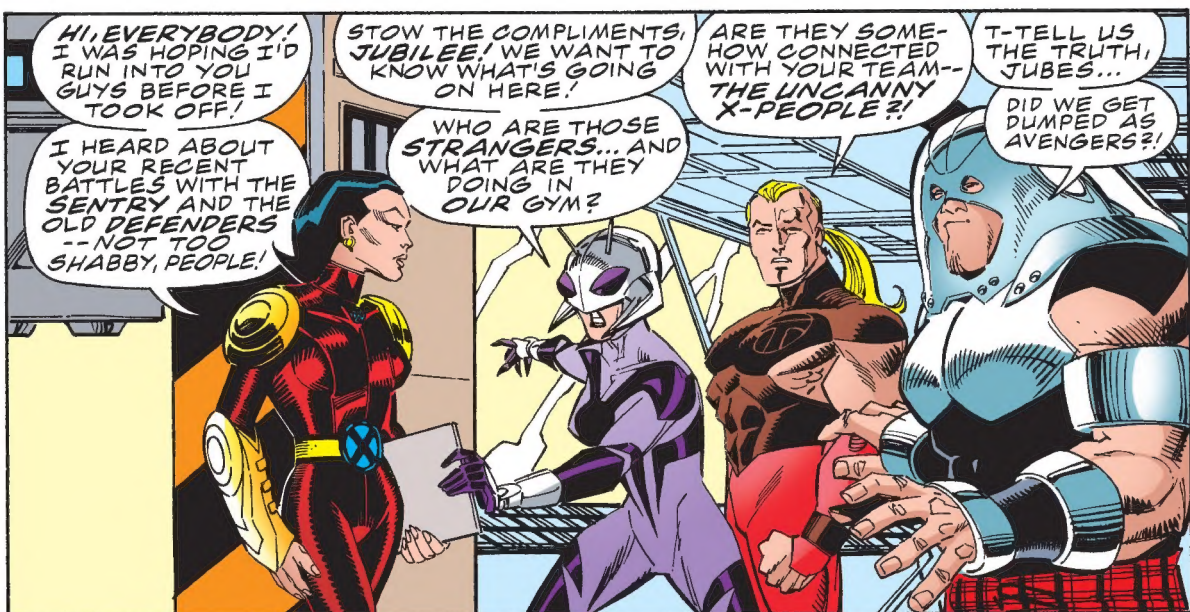
BREEDING & RYAN
FINISHED ART
BOB HARRAS--CHIEF

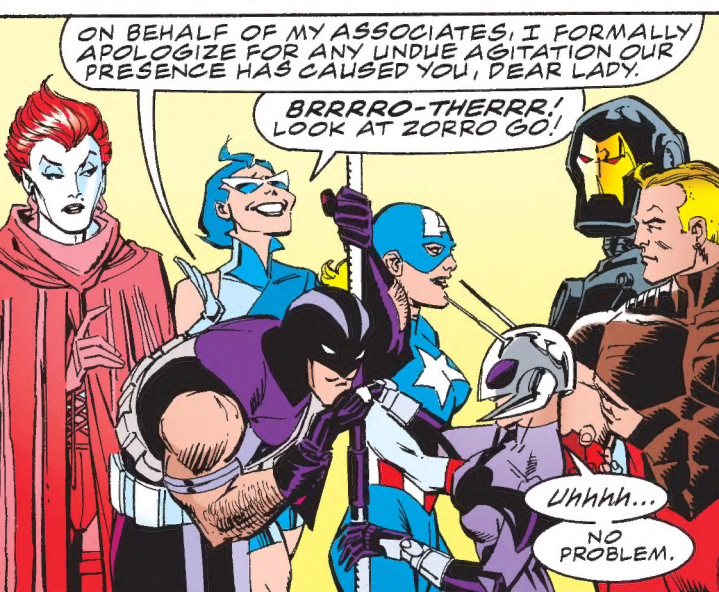
JIM NOVAK
LETTERING

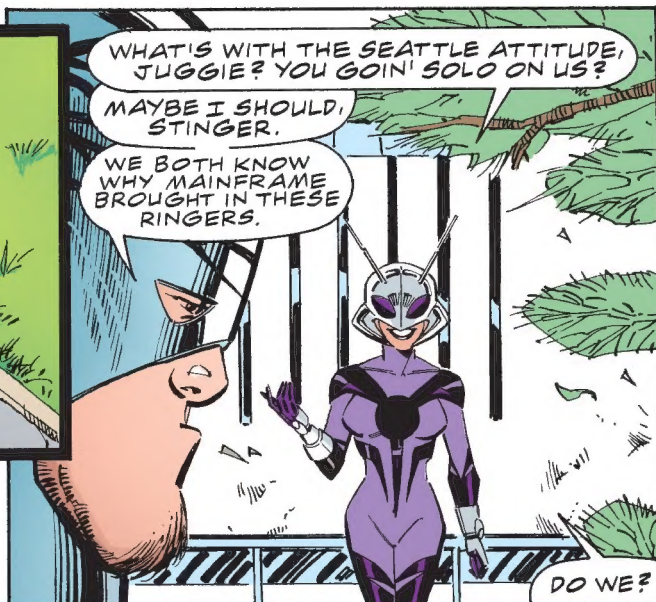
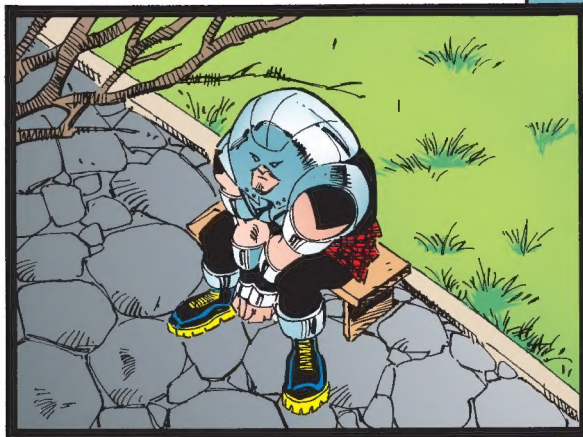
BOB SHAREN
COLORING



IT LOOKS LIKE
WE'VE BEEN
REPLACED
BY A WHOLE
NEW TEAM!







WHAT'S WITH THE SEATTLE ATTITUDE, JUGGIE? YOU GOIN' SOLO ON US?

MAYBE I SHOULD, STINGER.

WE BOTH KNOW WHY MAINFRAME BROUGHT IN THESE RINGERS.

DO WE?

AW, C'MON! IT'S 'CAUSE I FREAKED AND BOLTED DURING OUR FIGHT WITH THE DEFENDERS IN ARIZONA.*

MAINFRAME KNOWS HE CAN'T COUNT ON ME IN A HOT THROW DOWN.

MAYBE THUNDER-STRIKE'S RIGHT. A KID LIKE ME REALLY DOESN'T BELONG IN THE AVENGERS.

HEY! YOU MAY BE A LITTLE YOUNGER THAN THE REST OF US, BUT YOU MAKE UP FOR IT WITH SHEER POWER AND ENTHUSIASM.

AS FOR MAINFRAME, I HAVE MY OWN THEORY ABOUT HIS MOTIVATION, AND IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.

THE DEFENDERS MAY HAVE TERRIFIED YOU, BIG GUY, BUT BOTTOM LINE...

YOU CAME BACK!

*SEE LAST ISSUE!

AND YOU SAVED MY LI'L INSECT-SIZED BUTT!

Ahhh... YOU WOULD'VE DONE ALL RIGHT ON YOUR OWN!

THANKS FOR THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, KIND SIR, BUT YOU'RE STILL MY HERO.

WE CLEAR--?

YEAH... CRYSTAL!

COOL! NOW COME WITH ME. I KNOW SOMEONE WHO'S ANXIOUS TO SLAP YOUR FANNY.

SAY WHAT--?!

RELAX! IT'S NOT MAINFRAME!

EVEN AS CASSIE AND ZANE REJOIN THE OTHERS WE'LL MOSEY ACROSS TOWN... TO THE EMBASSY OF THE SOVEREIGN STATE OF WAKANDA.

WHILE WE SINCERELY APPRECIATE SHIELD'S OFFER TO GUARD THE PRINCE, OUR KING HAS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THAT THE RECENTLY REFORMED AVENGERS ACCOMPANY US TO WASHINGTON.

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, AMBASSADOR, WE BELIEVE CERTAIN HATE GROUPS OPPOSE YOUR VISIT--

--AND MAY HAVE TARGETED THE PRINCE FOR ASSASSINATION!

I'M AFRAID THE MATTER IS QUITE OUT OF MY HANDS, AGENT 33.

THEY WOULD KILL ME TO PREVENT A SIMPLE TRADE AGREEMENT? HA!

THIS ISN'T A JOKE, MY PRINCE--!

AND I WON'T TREAT IT AS SUCH, UNCLE N'KANO.

FATHER MAY WANT THE AVENGERS, BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO OFFEND SHIELD.

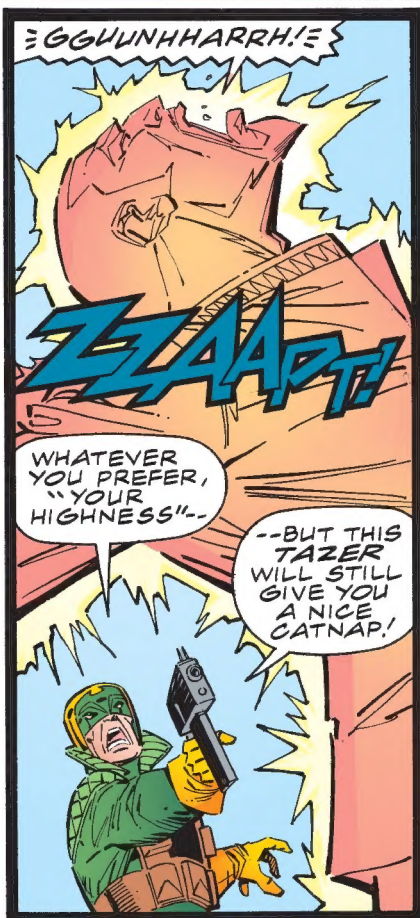
I PROPOSE WE ALL GO. WE CAN EVEN HAVE A PICNIC ON THE WAY.

IS EVERYONE HAPPY NOW? WITH SO MUCH SECURITY, WHAT COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG?



EVERYBODY, GET DOWN!

T'CHAKA-- BEHIND ME!



OKAY, MAINFRAME, I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY YOU SIGNED US UP FOR THIS MILK RUN -- T'CHAKA IS THE SON OF THE BLACK PANTHER, A FORMER AVENGER.

SINCE WE LEFT THE NEW GUYS BACK AT HEADQUARTERS, LET'S CHAT...

ABOUT WHAT, STINGER?

ABOUT KEEPING SECRETS FROM YOUR TEAMMATES.

DOES YOUR RECRUITING DRIVE HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THAT ROBOT WE SAW TORN APART IN ARIZONA?

AS I TOLD J2 AT THE TIME, I OCCASIONALLY EMPLOY ROBOTIC DOPPELGANGERS OF MYSELF.

AND YOU NEVER BOTHERED TO MENTION THIS IN ANY OF OUR STRATEGY SESSIONS?

HHMMM! I'M THINKING OF AN EIGHT-LETTER WORD THAT BEGINS WITH B AND ENDS WITH T.

SEE HERE, STINGER! I DON'T HAVE TO-- LOOK!

ARMED SUBJECTS ARE ON THE ROOF OF THE WAKANDAN EMBASSY -- AND THEY APPEAR TO BE KIDNAPPING THE MAN WE'RE HERE TO SEE!

SOMEONE LAND THE QUINTET-- WHILE I ENGAGE THE PERPETRATORS!

YOU'RE NOT DODGING ME THAT EASILY, METAL HEAD!

STINGER, PLEASE--! WE CAN CONTINUE OUR CONVERSATION LATER.

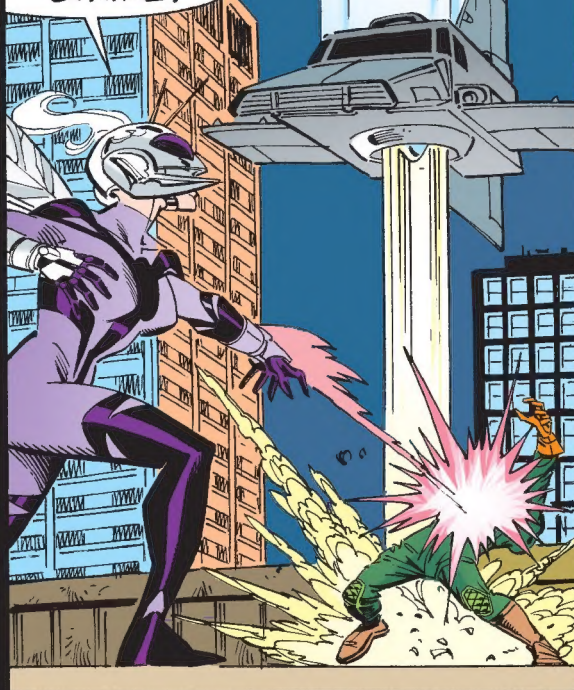


WE NOW HAVE
WORK TO DO--

--AND,
QUITE
POSSIBLY,
LIVES TO
SAVE!

HEADS UP, MAINFRAME! HERE
COMES SOME KIND OF EXTRACTION
CRAFT-- AND I'M
GUESSING IT'LL ALSO BE
LOADED WITH
REINFORCEMENTS!

WHAT'S KEEPING
JUGGIE AND
'STRIKE?



"WHY DON'T THEY JUST
BRING THE QUINJET
DOWN AND JOIN US?!"



SO, JUGGIE...
DO YOU HAVE
ANY IDEA HOW
TO FLY THIS
THING?

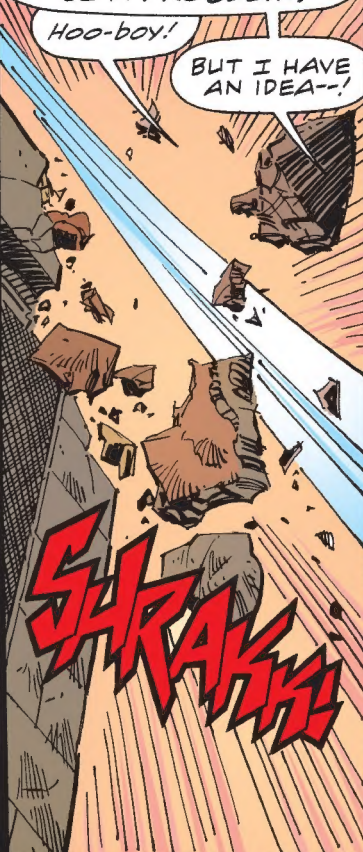
SURE, I'VE
BEEN WATCHING
HOW MAINFRAME
DOES IT.

FLYING
LOOKS REAL
EASY!

LANDING, HOWEVER, COULD
BE A PROBLEM!

Hoo-boy!

BUT I HAVE
AN IDEA--!



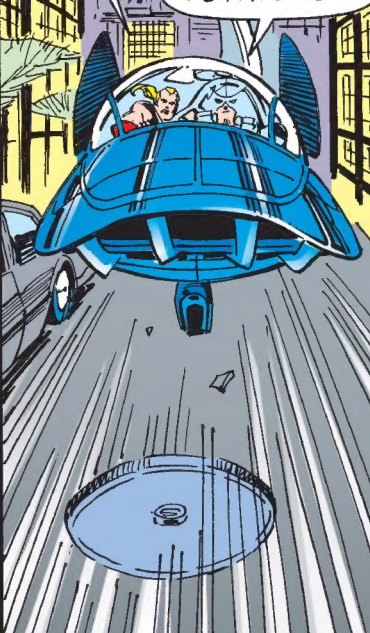
I'M GOING TO USE THE
STREET AS A RUNWAY.

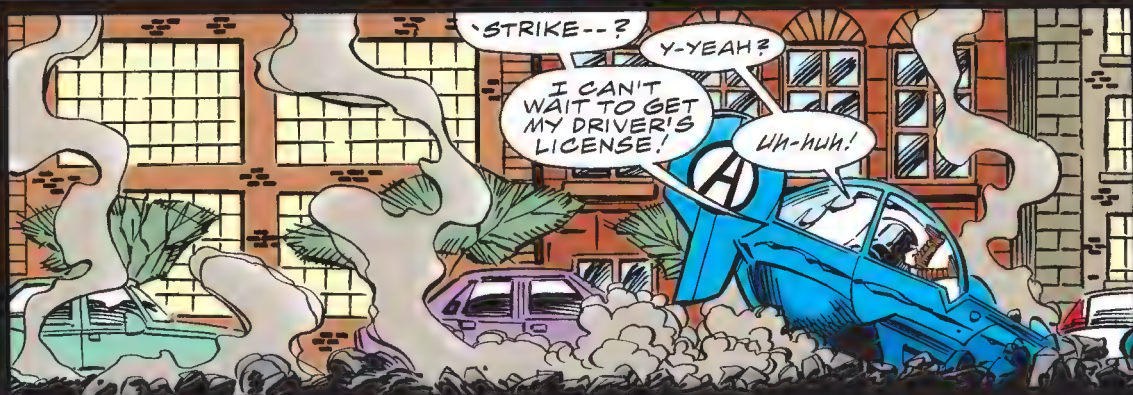
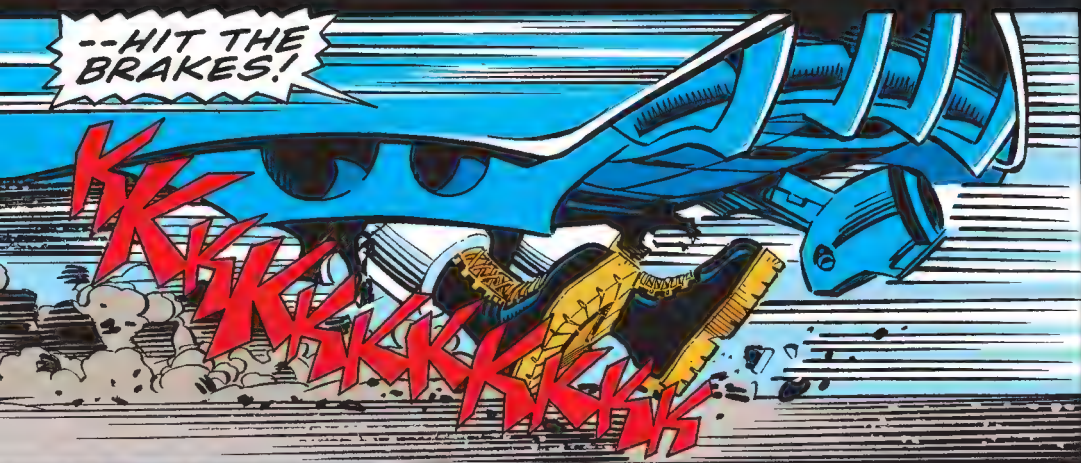
Y-YOU'RE
GOING VERY
FAST!

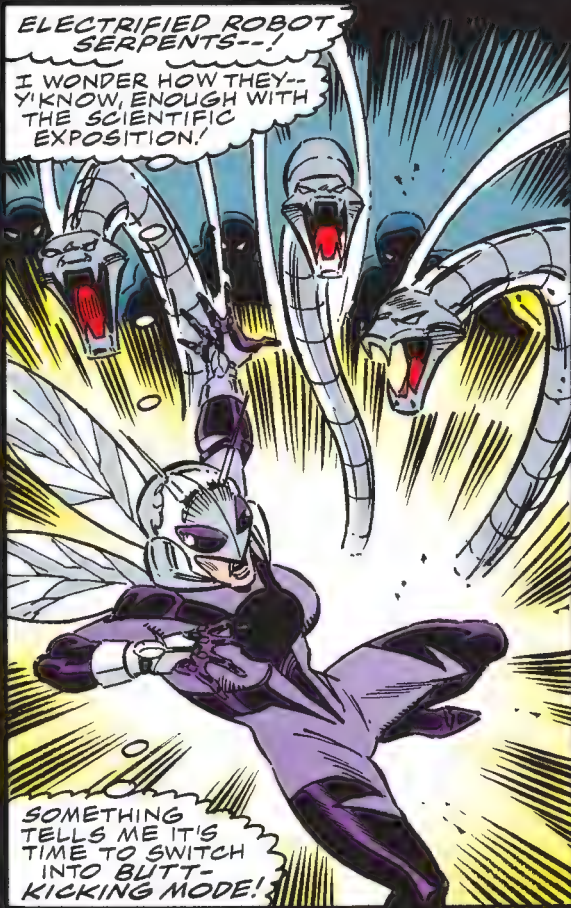
I GOTTA
GET US A
LITTLE
LOWER.

VERY, VERY
FAST!

LOW ENOUGH
FOR ME TO--







ELECTRIFIED ROBOT SERPENTS--!

I WONDER HOW THEY--
Y'KNOW, ENOUGH WITH
THE SCIENTIFIC
EXPOSITION!

SOMETHING
TELLS ME IT'S
TIME TO SWITCH
INTO BUTT-
KICKING MODE!



STAY BEHIND ME,
YOUR HIGHNESS!
I WON'T
ALLOW
THESE
DEVICES
TO REACH
YOU!

I AM PERFECTLY
CAPABLE OF
DEFENDING MYSELF,
IRON MAN.

MY NAME'S
MAINFRAME!
THE ORIGINAL
IRON MAN
IS... WAS... MY
MENTOR!



THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES ARE CON-
VERGING ON THIS BUILDING! WE MUST
WITHDRAW BEFORE THEIR AIR SUP-
PORT CAN CUT OFF OUR ESCAPE!

WE MAY HAVE
FAILED TO SECURE
OUR PRIMARY
OBJECTIVE, BUT
TARGET TWO
HAS ALREADY
BEEN ACQUIRED!

HE WILL SERVE
OUR PURPOSE!

WE MUST
RETURN TO
THE SHIP--
NOW!

YES,
WE MUST--!



LOOKS LIKE WE MISSED
THE ACTION, JUGS! THE
BAD GUYS ARE
CHEWING SKY!

CASSIE!
WE'VE GOTTA
MAKE SURE SHE'S
ALL RIGHT!

I'M SURE
SHE'S FINE!

SHE'D BETTER
BE... FOR
MAINFRAME'S
SAKE!



HAVE YOU GOT A SCREW LOOSE, MAINFRAME? WHAT POSSESSED YOU TO DITCH JUGGIE AND ME?

YOU KNOW WE HAVEN'T BEEN BRIEFED ON FLYING A QUINJET. WE COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED!

HEY! WHERE'S STINGER--?

I ACTED RASHLY IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT, THUNDERSTRIKE... AND I APOLOGIZE.

AT LEAST THE PRINCE HAS BEEN SAVED!

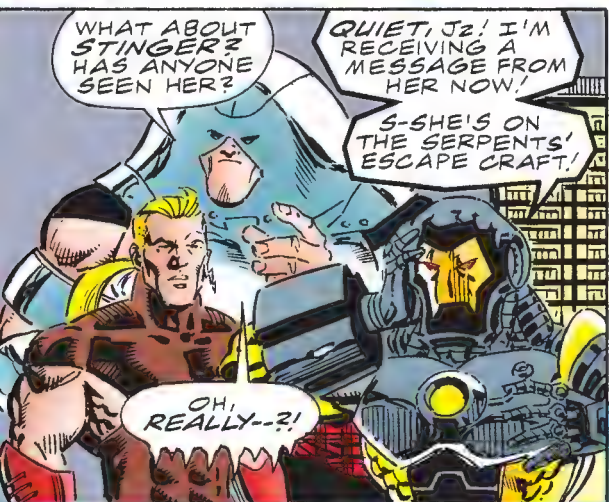


DON'T PAT YOURSELF ON THE BACK JUST YET, AVENGER!

AFTER THE ACTION MOVED TO THE ROOF, A SECOND ATTACK SQUAD MADE OFF WITH THE AMBASSADOR!

ARE YOU INJURED, AGENT 33?

YOU HEARD THE LADY, TEAM! IT'S OUR JOB TO RESCUE THE AMBASSADOR!

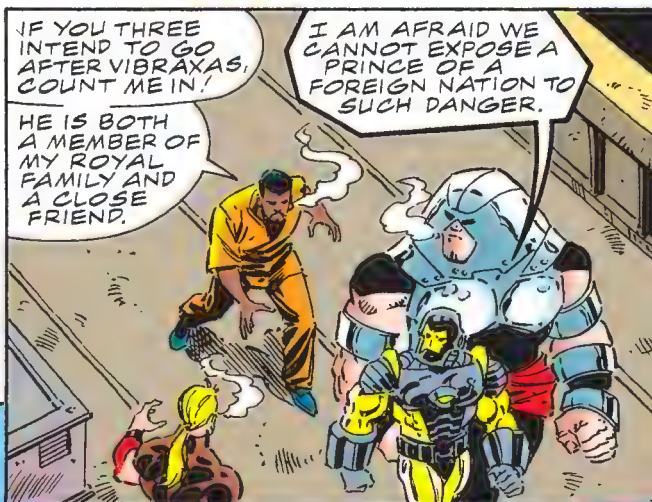


WHAT ABOUT STINGER? HAS ANYONE SEEN HER?

QUIET, J2! I'M RECEIVING A MESSAGE FROM HER NOW!

S-SHE'S ON THE SERPENTS' ESCAPE CRAFT!

OH, REALLY--?!



IF YOU THREE INTEND TO GO AFTER VIBRAXAS, COUNT ME IN!

HE IS BOTH A MEMBER OF MY ROYAL FAMILY AND A CLOSE FRIEND.

I AM AFRAID WE CANNOT EXPOSE A PRINCE OF A FOREIGN NATION TO SUCH DANGER.



YOU MISUNDERSTAND, MAINFRAME.

YOU CANNOT STOP ME!

BUT I WILL NOT GO AS T'CHAKA, THE WAKANDAN PRINCE. I WILL FIGHT ALONGSIDE THE AVENGERS AS--

--COAL TIGER, THE SON OF THE BLACK PANTHER!

EVEN AS THE TEAM REACTS TO T'CHAKA'S UNEXPECTED TRANSFORMATION, WE SHALL BRIEFLY RETURN TO AVENGERS HEADQUARTERS...

I WANT TO THANK YOU AGAIN FOR CONVINCING MAINFRAME TO CONSIDER US FOR MEMBERSHIP, MR. JARVIS.

CRIMSON CURSE-- AERIKA-- YOU SEEM A LITTLE SKITTISH. ARE YOU FEELING ALL RIGHT?

I... I'M NOT SURE, BRANDON.

THERE'S SOMETHING... ODD... ABOUT THIS PLACE.

SAYS YOU! I KINDA LIKE THESE DIGS!

BBZZIT!

ATTENTION, AMERICA! THIS IS YOUR WAKE-UP CALL!

HEY! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE WEATHER CHANNEL?

THIS USED TO BE A GREAT COUNTRY, BUT THE MISGUIDED FOOLS IN WASHINGTON HAVE ALLOWED OUR PROUD LAND TO BECOME OVERRUN WITH MUTANTS, MONGRELS AND MISFITS!

EVEN NOW A NEW TRADE AGREEMENT IS BEFORE CONGRESS THAT WILL CAUSE MANY TRUE AMERICANS TO LOSE THEIR JOBS AND DIGNITY.

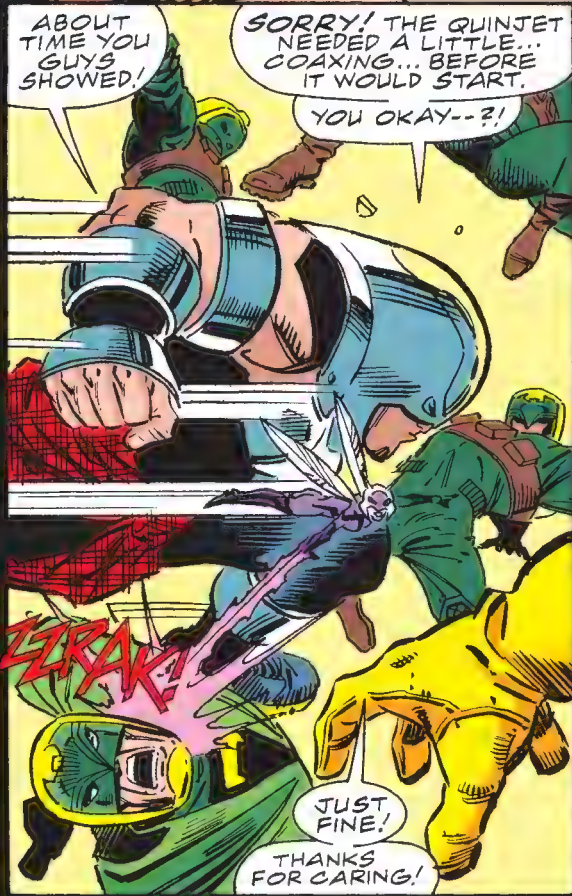
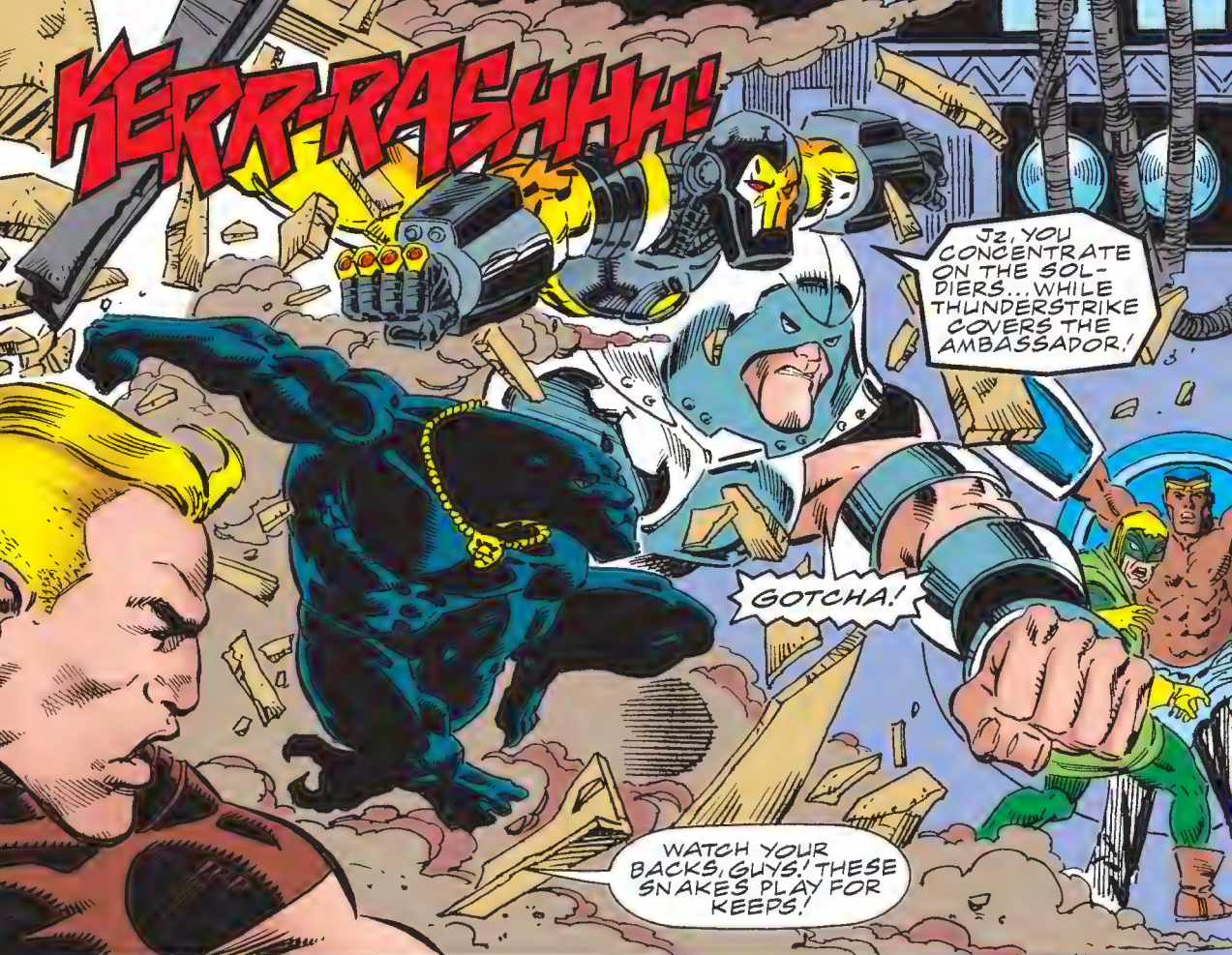
EVERYONE TO THE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER-- HURRY!

OH, NO! THE SITUATION IS EVEN WORSE THAN I THOUGHT!

WHAT'S THE BUZZ, CUZ?

I WAS HOPING TO USE THIS EQUIPMENT TO LOCATE THE SOURCE OF THIS BROADCAST, BUT-- LOOK! AN EMERGENCY TRANSMISSION FROM STINGER THAT'S ORIGINATING FROM THE SAME LOCATION!

OUR COURSE IS CLEAR--! LET'S GO!



MEANWHILE...

LET THE TRAITORS WITHIN OUR GOVERNMENT BEWARE! THE SOLDIERS OF THE SERPENT HAVE HAD ENOUGH!

WE WILL EXECUTE AN ENEMY OF OUR NATION AT EIGHT TONIGHT!

ANDDDD... WE'RE CLEAR!

AT LEAST HALF THE TELEVISION SETS IN THE COUNTRY RECEIVED OUR TRANSMISSION, BROTHER!

EXCELLENT!

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE THE CENTER OF SO MUCH ATTENTION, AMBASSADOR?

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW, SERPENT? I HAVE SEEN MEN SUCH AS YOU BEFORE.

THE WORLD HAS ALWAYS BEEN PLAGUED BY SMALL-MINDED INDIVIDUALS WHO MASK THEIR FEARS AND INSECURITIES WITH RAGE AND ANGER.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I FEAR NOTHING!

WRONG! YOU FEAR A WORLD YOU CAN NO LONGER UNDERSTAND OR CONTROL! YOU FEAR A SOCIETY THAT HAS EVOLVED PAST YOUR PETTY PREJUDICES!

LIKE A CORNERED ANIMAL YOU LASH OUT-- USING VIOLENCE TO RECAST SOCIETY INTO YOUR SAD AND LIMITED IMAGE!

WHAT DO I FEEL, SERPENT?

WHEN I LOOK UPON YOU... ALL I CAN FEEL... IS PITY!

YOU'RE GOING TO DIE, AMBASSADOR!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO NEEDS THE PITY!

YOU'RE GOING TO DIE!

MY DEATH WILL CHANGE NOTHING!

WHEW! THAT HEAD SERPENT IS RUNNING A LITTLE RICH!

I WISH THE OTHERS WOULD HURRY UP AND GET HERE!

WHERE THE HECK ARE THEY--?!



THIS RESCUE ATTEMPT MAY HAVE RUINED OUR PLANS TO BROADCAST YOUR EXECUTION, AMBASSADOR... BUT YOU'RE STILL GOING TO DIE!

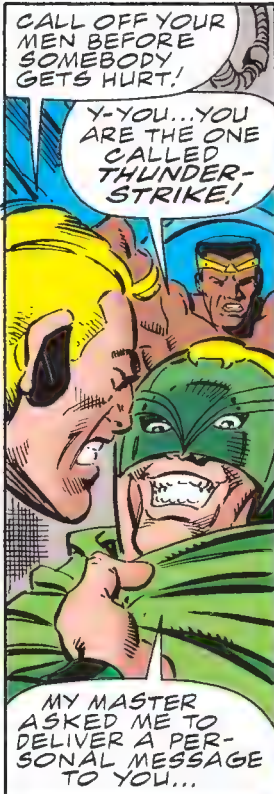
YOU'RE STILL GOING TO FALL TO OUR NEW WORLD ORDER!



TAWOK!

YOU'VE BEEN LISTENING TO TOO MUCH TALK RADIO, PAL!

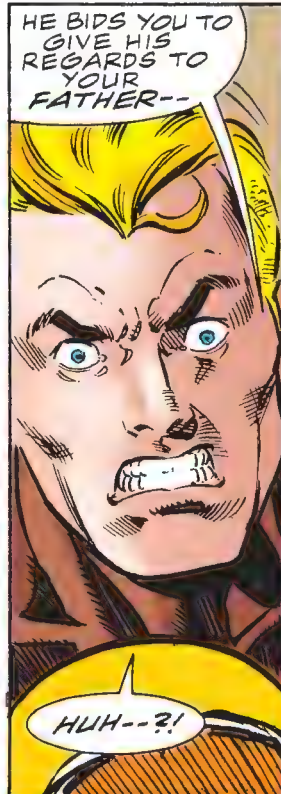
YOUR NEW WORLD ORDER IS CLOSING ON THE ROAD ...COURTESY OF THE AVENGERS!



CALL OFF YOUR MEN BEFORE SOMEBODY GETS HURT!

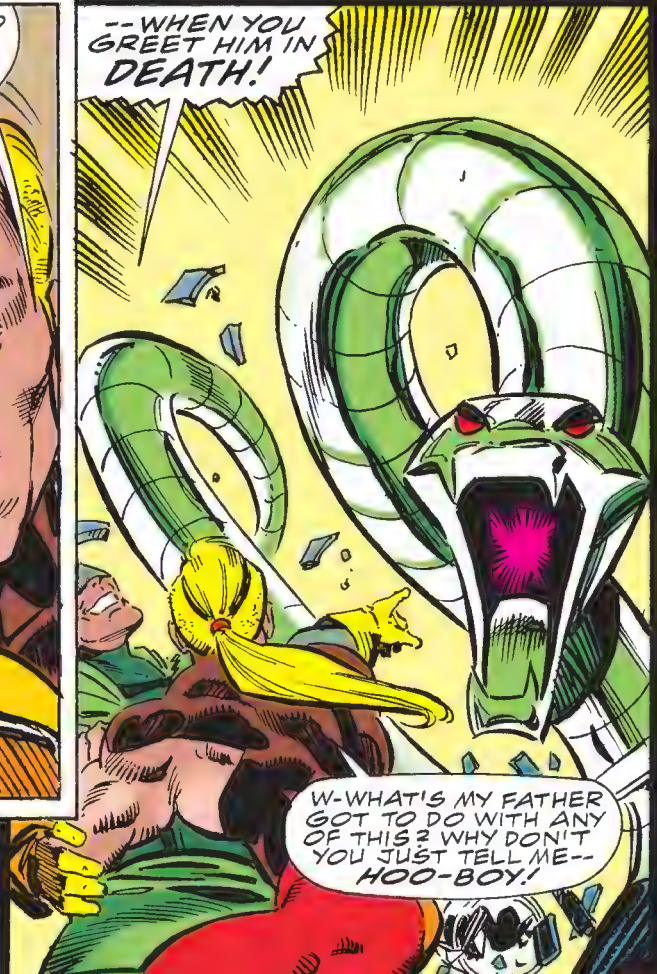
Y-YOU...YOU ARE THE ONE CALLED THUNDER-STRIKE!

MY MASTER ASKED ME TO DELIVER A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU...



HE BIDS YOU TO GIVE HIS REGARDS TO YOUR FATHER--

HUH--?!



--WHEN YOU GREET HIM IN DEATH!

W-WHAT'S MY FATHER GOT TO DO WITH ANY OF THIS? WHY DON'T YOU JUST TELL ME-- HOO-BOY!



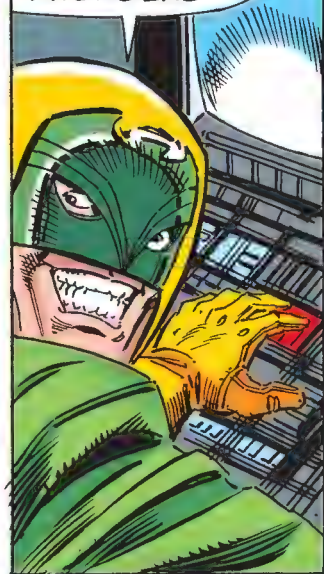
Uhhh, guys--?

I COULD
USE A LITTLE
HELP HERE!

THIS IS
PERFECT!

WHILE EVERYONE IS
DISTRACTED, I WILL
ACTIVATE OUR
CARRIER SIGNAL!

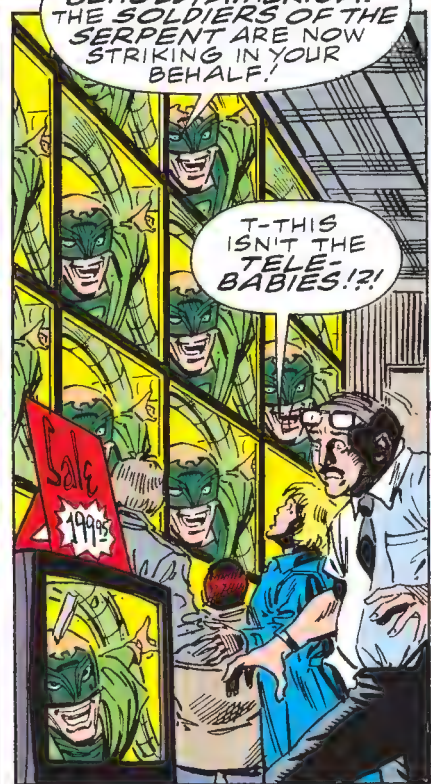
NOT ONLY WILL WE
REALIZE OUR INITIAL
GOAL, BUT THE
SOLDIERS OF THE
SERPENT WILL DE-
FEAT THESE NEW
AVENGERS--



--BEFORE A NATIONAL
AUDIENCE!

BEHOLD, AMERICA!
THE SOLDIERS OF THE
SERPENT ARE NOW
STRIKING IN YOUR
BEHALF!

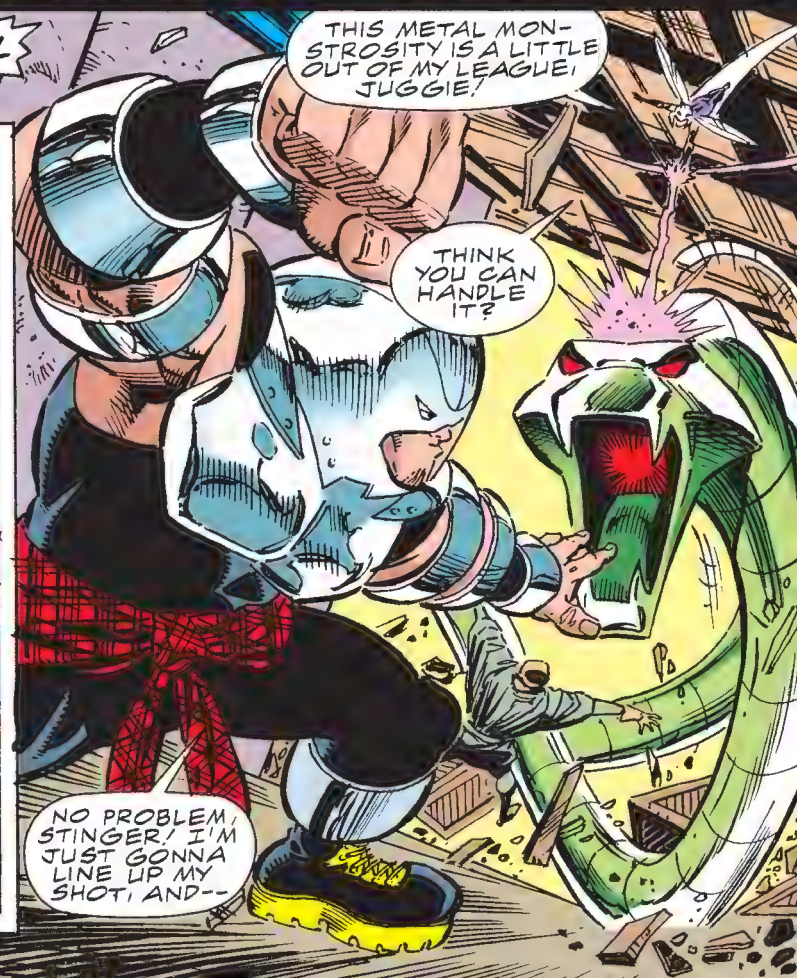
T-THIS
ISN'T THE
TELE-
BABIES!?!

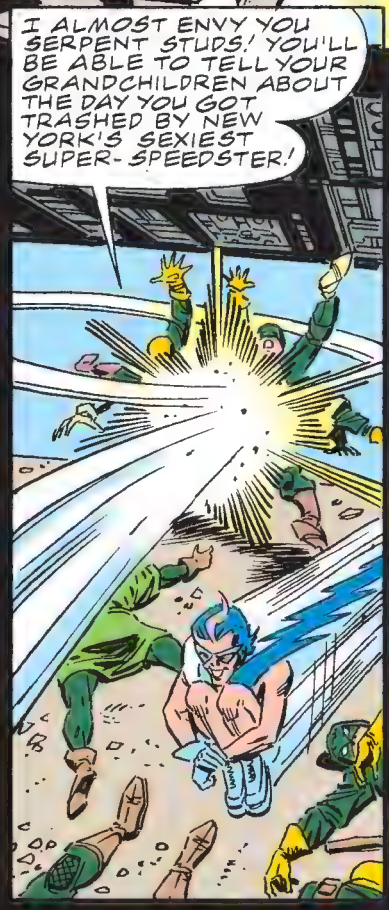
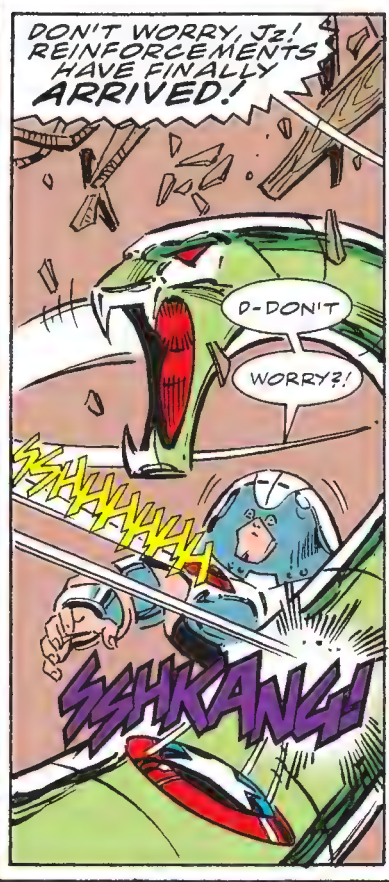


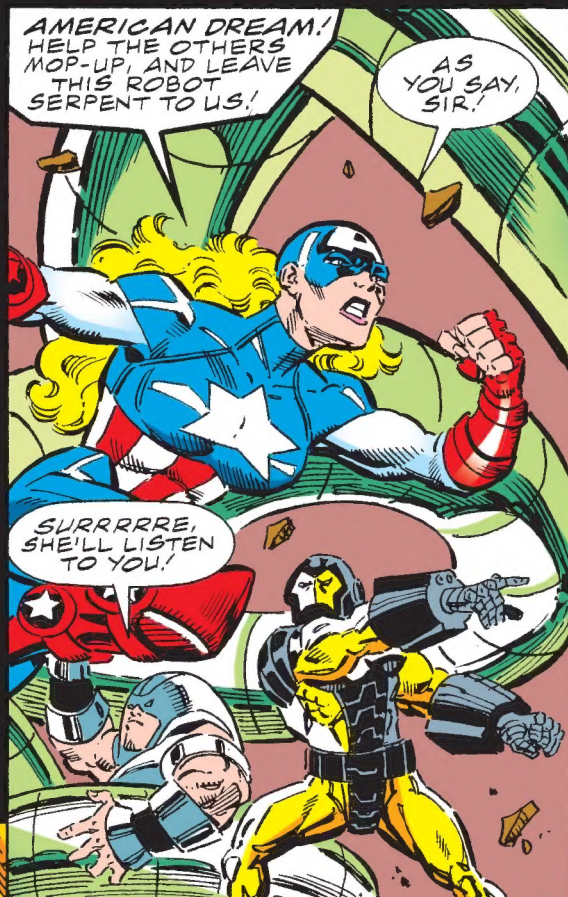
THIS METAL MON-
STROSITY IS A LITTLE
OUT OF MY LEAGUE,
JUGGIE!

THINK
YOU CAN
HANDLE
IT?

NO PROBLEM,
STINGER! I'M
JUST GONNA
LINE UP MY
SHOT, AND--



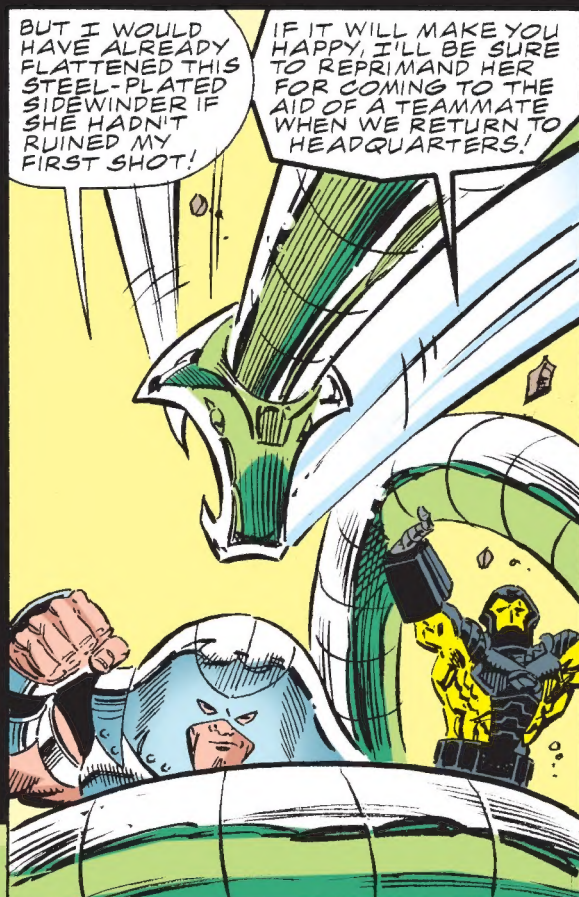




AMERICAN DREAM!
HELP THE OTHERS
MOP-UP, AND LEAVE
THIS ROBOT
SERPENT TO US!

AS
YOU SAY,
SIR!

SURRRRE,
SHE'LL LISTEN
TO YOU!



BUT I WOULD
HAVE ALREADY
FLATTENED THIS
STEEL-PLATED
SIDEWINDER IF
SHE HADN'T
RUINED MY
FIRST SHOT!

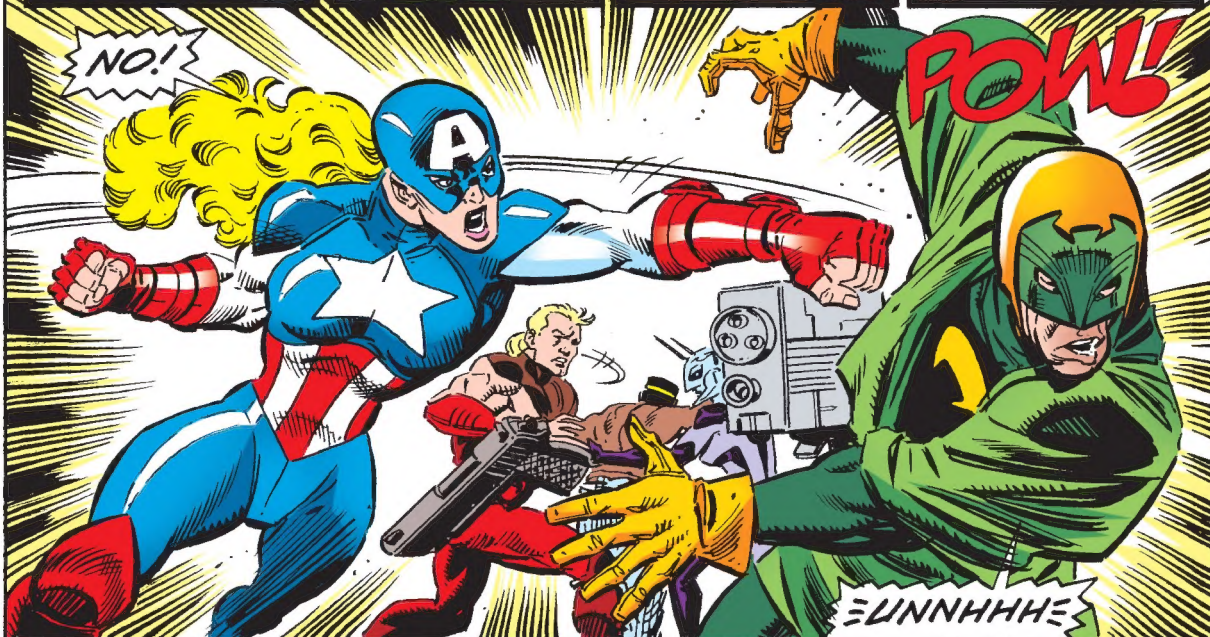
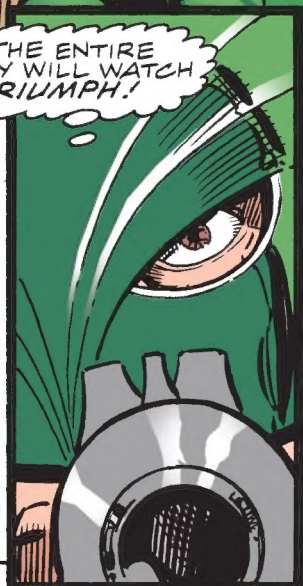
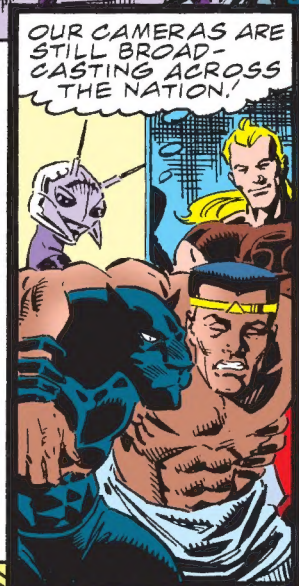
IF IT WILL MAKE YOU
HAPPY, I'LL BE SURE
TO REPRIMAND HER
FOR COMING TO THE
AID OF A TEAMMATE
WHEN WE RETURN TO
HEADQUARTERS!

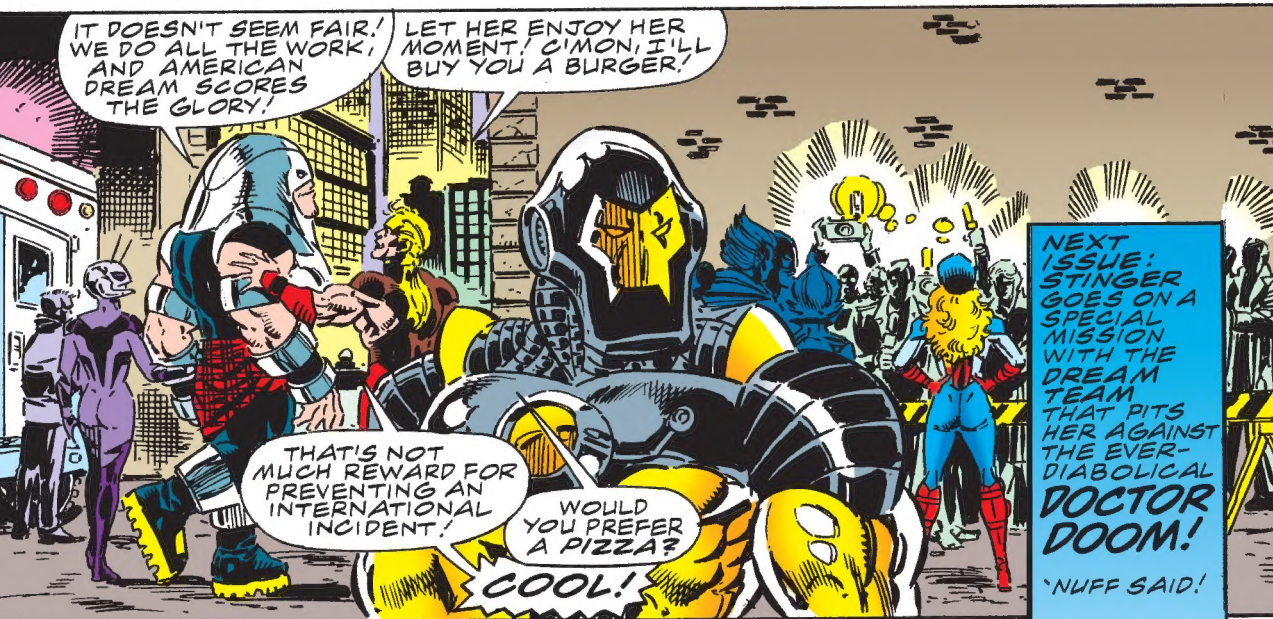
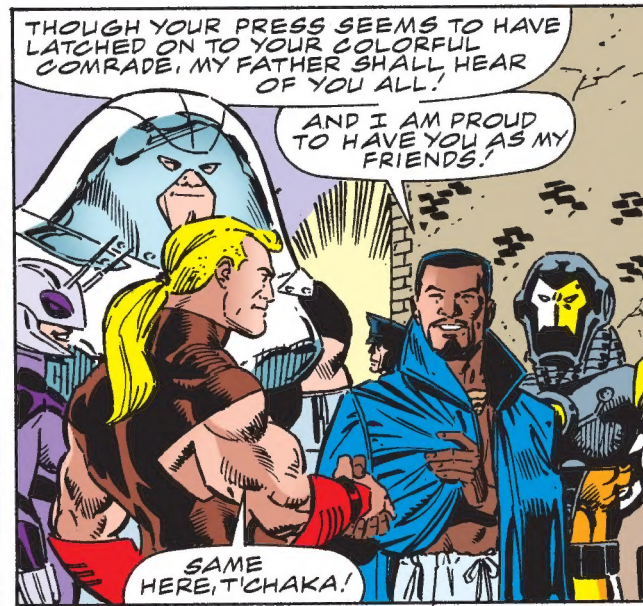
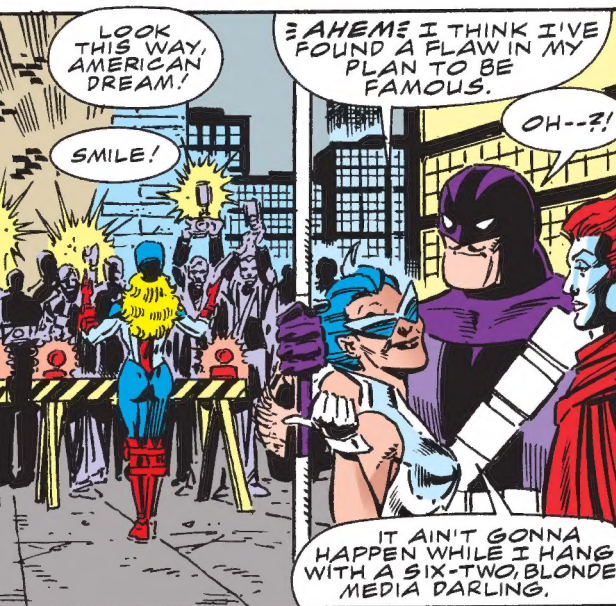
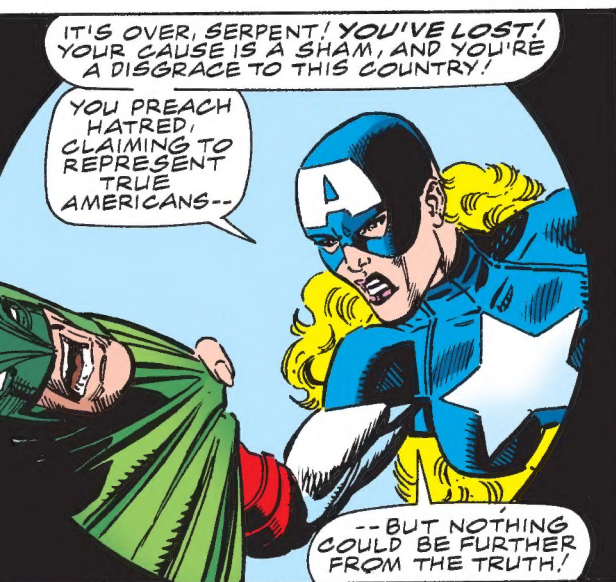
SPATAANK!

SURE.

FINE.

WHATEVER.





Shadowcat

